Human Relations News from the MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON GROUP RELATIONS

NEWARK, NEW JERSEY — LEO P. CARLIN, MAYOR

An official agency created by the Newark Fair Practice Ordinance to carry out the State policy against discrimination based on race, color, creed or national origin.

Room 214, City Hall, Newark, Mitchell 3-6300, Ext. 281

MR. STANLEY WINTERS
26 SHANLEY AVE.
NEWARK 8, N. J.

BULK RATE
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT No. 4026
NEWARK, N. J.

February — BROTHERHOOD MONTH ISSUE — 1961

Division Director Housing To Receive City Citation

Irving Laskowitz, one of the recipients of Newark's first Annual Brotherhood Awards, has lived all his life in Newark, graduated from its elementary and high schools and practiced law in the City for years. He holds a B.A. degree from New York University and an LL.B. degree from Rutgers University School of Law. He is married and has one daughter.

Mr. Laskowitz has been associated with the Newark Housing Authority for seventeen years, eleven of them as Project Manager and six years as Director of the Tenant Relations Division. He is remembered with affection by the tenants of Pennington, Hyatt, Seth Boyden and Kretchmer for his kind and understanding management. His high idealism and devotion to service is legend among all who know him.

Mr. Laskowitz has a strong love of Jewish tradition and orthodoxy. He has a deep and abiding faith in the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man. He has a distinguished record of eighteen years as president of Young Israel of Newark, and for its thirty-eight years of existence has been that organization's moving spirit in its religious, educational and communal activities.

The Tenant Relations Division was created by the Newark Housing Authority in 1954 out of a recognized need for helping the increasing number of families with problems. This division was the first of its kind in the Nation and under Mr. Laskowitz's leadership, it rapidly gained national recognition for the tremendous improvement in family living occasioned by the division's techniques. Other housing authorities, throughout the country, inspired by the Newark program, initiated programs of their own, using many of Newark's principles and procedures.

Mayor and City Council Join Commission In Conferring First Brotherhood Awards

Mayor Leo P. Carlin, the Municipal Council and the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations will pay tribute to six recipients of Brotherhood Awards at the regular City Council Meeting to be held at 8 P.M. on Thursday, February 16th in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Newark.

These First Annual Brotherhood Tributes, established by the Commission on Group Relations will be awarded this year to Irving Laskowitz, director of the Tenant Relations Division of the Newark Housing Authority; Richard Lowey, Newark Evening News photographer and four Newark firemen: Captain Robert F. Marron and Firemen John Denvir, Stanley Kossup, William Olvaney.

Irving Laskowitz, Director of Tenant Relations Division, Newark Housing Authority who will receive first annual Brotherhood tribute.

The purpose of these annual awards is to honor individuals whose daily work exemplifies the "Brotherhood of Man".

Alexander Mark, Chairman of the Commission, announced that these awards will be given annually in the month of February to those individuals who do most to promote harmonious human relationships among the residents of our neighborhoods and the City as a whole.

(Continued on page 2, column 2)

Visit South Side
High School's Exhibit
During
Negro History Week
"FOCUS ON AFRICA"
Thursday, Feb. 16, 1961
2:30 - 4:30 P.M.
In the Library
80 Johnson Avenue
"It's a rare treat for everyone"
Leonard Holman, Vice Chairman
Mayor's Commission on
Group Relations

DR. MASON W. GROSS BROTHERHOOD HEAD

Dr. Mason W. Gross, President of Rutgers, the State University, has been named to serve as State Chairman for Brotherhood Week 1961.

The National Conference is the found-

er and sponsor of Brotherhood Week as observed in the United States since 1934. Last year more than 10,000 cities, large and small, celebrated Brotherhood Week. Even more are expected to participate in 1961.

During December and early January, 2,000 letters with 5,000 pieces of literature were mailed to New Jersey clergymen, mayors, colleges, schools, librarians, community agencies.

The Regional staff of the NCCJ also assists in planning and arranging observances. The local office maintains a film library, a list of brotherhood plays and a speakers' bureau as a service upon request.

Further information and requests may be directed to the National Conference of Christians and Jews, 790 Broad Street, Newark 2, New Jersey, MI. 2-6025.

Clinton Hill Neighbors Hold Annual Meeting

The Clinton Hill Neighborhood Council will hold its annual Birthday Party-Social on February 19 at St. John's Lutheran Church, Avon Avenue and South 10th Street. This will be the fifth anniversary for the council, which was founded in December, 1955.

Beginning at 2 p.m., the affair will feature the people of the neighborhood who will provide musical entertainment and home-baked cake and food as refreshments. The council will present two awards to the outstanding "Neighbor of the Year" and "Member of the Year." Last year's award winners were Louis Pitts, now a member of the Commission on Group Relations, and George J. Brenn, president of the Robert Treat Savings and Loan Association and head of the council's advisory board of community leaders.

Host will be the Rev. Herbert Messner, pastor of St. John's. In charge of the council's committee on arrangements is Mrs. Mildred Helms, a vice-president of the group.

The public is invited and there is no admission charge.

First Brotherhood Awards

(Continued from page 1, column 3)

Nominations for 1962 awards must be received by Dan Anthony, Director of the Commission by October 31 of this year. Any organization or individual in the City of Newark may make suggestions. The Commission will then screen the applicants and select the winners.

BETTER NEIGHBORS BETTER NEIGHBORHOODS

Proud of your family? Like nice things? Of course! We all do. But pride starts at home—in the appearance of your home. And pride spreads. Fix up your home and pretty soon a neighbor will fix his. Consequently as the people of Newark and the City work together to improve their homes and blocks, they are giving themselves and the City something to be proud about by bringing the "new look" into Newark's neighborhoods.

NCNCR, the Newark Commission for Neighborhood Conservation and Rehabilitation, is the City Agency responsible for stimulating the neighborhood renewal effort. Its goal is standard housing or better, for every resident of Newark.

Three programs illustrate the work being done jointly by the City and its citizens to help achieve that goal:

First Conservation Program

Blight is already on the run in the southern end of Newark. The combined efforts of the home owners in the area and a team of inspectors from the De-

(Continued on page 4, column 2)

Newark Firemen, a rescue, babies and brotherhood. From left to right: Fireman William Olvaney, Captain Robert F. Marron, Firemen Stanley Kossup and John Denvir who will receive Brotherhood Citations at 8 P.M., February 16, 1961 in Newark City Hall Council Chamber.

Civil Rights Agencies Ask For New Bill Open Occupancy in Private Housing

The New Jersey Committee Against Discrimination in Housing has waged a one year preparatory campaign to introduce the best possible Fair Housing Bill to the New Jersey Legislature.

On January 16, 1961, Senate Bill S1 and Assembly Bill A12 were reintroduced with strong bi-partisan support into both houses.

This Bill, being the major item on the agenda of all human relations organizations in New Jersey, we are giving you the most recent information which you and your groups will need to see that our State passes the most complete private housing legislation in the United States.

Senate Bill—S1 was sent to Revision and Amendment Committee. Senator Wesley L. Lance, Chairman.

Assembly Bill—A12 was sent to Institutions, Public Health and Welfare Committee. Assemblyman Maurice V. Brady, Chairman.

Facts to Remember

Governor Robert Meyner recommended to the State Legislature at its opening session that because of growing concern serious consideration be given to its passage.

Four states (Colorado, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Oregon) have already enacted legislation to bar discrimination in private housing.

This is a gubernatorial year in the State of New Jersey and the leading candidates who are members of the Legislature are co-sponsors of the Bill.

Summary of the Fair Housing Bill

1. The proposed Bill amends the Law Against Discrimination by bringing within its framework discrimination because of race, creed, color, national origin or ancestry in the sale and rental of all real property, whether or not publicly-assisted.

2. Exceptions are:

a. the rental of an apartment in a two-family dwelling where the other apartment is maintained by the owner as the householder of his family.

b. the rental of rooms by the owner or occupant of a one-family accommodation.

3. The Bill provides that it shall not be construed to bar religious organizations from giving preference to persons of their own denomination in the sale or rental of their real property when calculated to promote the religious principles of the organization.

4. The Bill covers acts of discrimination by owners and lessees and their agents, real estate brokers and salesmen and their agents, and lenders; and prohibits advertising of such discrimination.

5. The Bill amends the Law Against Discrimination by giving the Superior Court power to grant temporary injunctive relief pending action by the Division on Civil Rights in order to preserve the status quo or otherwise ensure that a future order will be effective.

MAYOR CARLIN PLANS COOPERATIVE HOUSING

In October, 1960, Mayor Carlin met with a middle income cooperative housing builder to discuss plans for Newark. At that time, he asked Dan Anthony, director of the Group Relations agency, to meet with organization representatives of Newark, who might prove most interested in a cooperative housing venture. Since then four or five meetings ensued during which unanimous agreement has been achieved.

Members attending these meetings were: Louis Danzig, director of the Newark Housing Authority; Al Mark, chairman of the Commission on Group Relations; James Pawley of the Urban League; C. B. Norris, president of the NAACP; William Brach, N.C.N.C.R.; Theodore Pettigrew, NHA; George Oberlander, City Planning Officer, Mrs. Rose Heyman, Haikman L. Holmes and Al Barkan of the Clinton Hill Neighborhood Council.

Plans have now jelled to a point where Mr. Louis Danzig has been requested by Mayor Carlin to select a site. Newark residents, interested in middle income cooperative living, may get further information by calling any of the above Committee members or Dan Anthony, director of the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations at Mitchell 3-6300, extension 281.

DIVISION ON CIVIL RIGHTS DISPLAYS AND EXHIBITS

The State Division on Civil Rights, formerly Division Against Discrimination, has cooperated with the National Conference of Christians and Jews in Brotherhood Week observances since 1945. Each year during the month of February staff members participate in community programs. They take on stints as principal speakers, panelists, discussion leaders, man exhibits, show

J. Forbes Smith, director of Media, Exhibits and Displays for the State Division on Civil Rights of New Jersey.

films and film strips or serve in whatever capacity is most helpful.

The unique talents of J. Forbes Smith, Field Representative in charge of exhibits, have made it possible for D. C. R. to have an extensive year-round exhibit project. "Jack" is a professional photographer, an efficient traffic manager, (he would have to be one to process over 200 exhibits a year), and he is also that "rara avis" — a prime example of brotherhood 365 days a year.

Scheduled in Essex County for February, 1961 are 59 major exhibits. They will be seen in churches, schools, public libraries, municipal buildings, banks, savings and loan offices, stores, industrial plants and a transportation center. For the third year Public Service has made available one of its inside terminal windows for a Brotherhood exhibit. B'nai B'rith Women have worked closely with the Division each year on the special display. This year's theme is, "Dolls for Democracy".

BROTHERHOOD—That people shall live as one family of Man.

NEWARK ALLIANCE FOR INTEGRATION AND DIGNITY PLANS AID

The recent picture flashed across the TV screen and in the newspapers showing the existence of Freedom Village—a tent city in Tennessee—has shocked the nation. Here refugees from bigotry and prejudice are living with their families in tents, huddled around a small stove, because they are fighting for their American right to vote.

The Greater Newark Alliance for Integration and Dignity (AID) is launching a campaign to give everyone the opportunity to express his sense of outrage at these events. We urge you to join with us individually, through your church and synagogue, and through your organizations in the successful fulfillment of this program, which is two-fold; to raise funds urgently needed for tents, medicines, fuel and other necessities and to identify with this cause.

An opportunity for everyone to indicate his sympathy with the people in Freedom Village is made available through a Postal Card especially prepared by AID. The front of the card shows a picture of a mother and her children in one of the tents in Freedom Village, and the back of the card contains a message to the President.

The Freedom Rally on February 13th will be held at the Cathedral House, 24 Rector Street, Newark, New Jersey at 8 P.M. Main speaker of the evening will be Ted Poston, veteran news reporter on the New York Post, who has devoted unstinting time and energy in presenting the true picture and facts of the plight of the Negro in the South. Further information and details regarding the program and contest may be obtained by contacting the AID office, 10 Hill Street, Newark, N. J. Market 3-0745.

Better Neighborhoods

(Continued from page 2, column 3)

partment of Health and Welfare are working together to improve the neighborhood and stop the spread of blight.

After next October when their work in this area has been completed, the inspectors will move into other sections of the city to check for blighting influences, encourage voluntary home improvements, and thus help protect and restore more good neighborhoods.

First Rehabilitation Program

Execution of this program in a 14 square block area in Clinton Hill will be started this year. Under this program the property owners in the area will improve their homes and structures; the City will create a new park and recreation center; it will change street patterns, add some new walkways. The worst housing will be demolished and private developers will build new housing to replace it. Thus by 1962 the "new look" in Clinton Hill will be starting.

New Rooming House Ordinance of '61

This Ordinance places rooming houses and boarding houses under licensing and a complete set of regulations for the first time. It proclaims an emancipation from conditions of a type that find a whole family living in a room. It specifies the end, at last, to the community kitchen and cooking in shifts.

It contains comprehensive fire prevention provisions. It forbids children from living in rooming units in rooming houses. Thus, this ordinance acknowledges the sanctity of the home and the family and calls for outlawing those physical conditions which can most readily destroy both. Consequently, the ordinance will serve as a protection for responsible owners and for occupants and the public as well.

Together these three programs will do much to create the better neighborhoods that help make better neighbors of all of us.

URBAN RENEWAL AND HUMAN RELATIONS VALUES

The term "urban renewal" is used to describe the total program in which all available municipal and federal resources are applied according to plans in order to eliminate slums and blight and to prevent their formation in other city areas. As such, Newark, like cities throughout the country, is in the midst of large programs *clearing slums, rehabilitating older neighborhoods and making efforts at conserving the better neighborhoods.* It is a massive effort. It needs many helping hands.

The economic advantages of urban renewal and slum clearance go together with social advantages. Together, they can mean, when applied correctly, a tremendously successful effort in the field of human relations. For now, the citizen of every race, color and creed, as well as those from every economic station, will be able to choose his type of environment: new housing, representing tastes for the very rich and the low income families, new neighborhoods, new friends and new civic life.

Redevelopment of the older, run-down sections means new industry, new jobs, new housing and new opportunities. Rehabilitation of the decaying houses in older neighborhoods means that people wanting to retain long-standing friends and neighbors can do so with the knowledge that others on their block will also modernize, and together the entire value of the area increases. *Conservation* of the better area means new incentives to the urban renewal program.

When you look at the entire meaning of urban renewal, you can see that it is of economic value as well as important to human and social relations. It wipes out slums, and slums are costly to the entire City. It creates jobs and better housing for those people who work and earn money in our community. And it means a new look on life and a fresh start for thousands of families in new housing, and new neighborhoods.

MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON GROUP RELATIONS

COMMISSIONERS

Alexander Mark, *Chairman* Leonard Holman, *Vice Chairman*

William M. Ashby, Jordan B. Baris, John F. Cahill, Fred Landolphi, John M. Marks, Phil O. Mayer, Lawrence B. McCloskey, James M. Melnychuk, Louis S. Pitts, Miss Marie E. Radel, Angel Torres

Daniel S. Anthony, *Executive Director*